

Background for Bay-Delta Principles meeting

EPA Region 9's top 3 priorities for the Delta are in the December 22, 2009 Interim Federal Bay Delta Action Plan:

1. Ensuring that water quality regulations sufficiently protect beneficial uses, not only the T&E species (salmon, Delta smelt, etc) but other species, as well as drinking water and agricultural uses.

- Region 9 will continue to provide funding and technical assistance to the State Water Board as it implements the Clean Water Act.
- Region 9 is currently assessing the effectiveness of California's water quality regulatory efforts.
- EPA will issue an ANPR to gather information on select issues that are not currently being fully addressed.

2. Establishing a locally-supported comprehensive water quality monitoring & assessment program which provides a sound scientific basis for targeting water quality improvement activities; and

- Region 9 and California are currently partnering on strategy development.
- Under the Action Plan, other federal agencies have agreed to participate.
- Major issues are long-term funding and governance.

3. Assisting in the development of a long-term solution to Delta water management issues via the BDCP (Bay Delta Conservation Plan) and/or California's new Delta Stewardship Council efforts.

- the BDCP, as currently structured and managed, has many problems.
- EPA is working under DOI's leadership to identify and resolve the key issues
- until key issues are resolved, EPA should not commit to any BDCP schedule or any increased level of participation